

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCE-00 OPR-02 HA-05 MCT-01
IO-13 /081 W

-----073083 211616Z /43

O 211545Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9872

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5121

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK: EXTENT OF US SUPPORT FOR FRENCH OPERATION

REFS: (A) STATE 127772; (B) PARIS 127604

1. ZAMISH CHIEF HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM GEN. BABIA THAT U.S. TRANSPORT 750 DRUMS OF MOTOR GAS AND 50 DRUMS OF JP-1 FROM KINSHASA TO KAMINA IN SUPPORT OF FRENCH OPERATIONS AT KOLWEZI. WE ESTIMATE THIS REQUEST WOULD ENTAIL FOUR C-141 FLIGHTS.

2. ASSUME REQUEST ORIGINATED WITH FRENCH, WHO APPARENTLY FOUND THEMSELVES IN POSITION OF NOT HAVING MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DELIVERING POL TO THEIR UNITS AT KOLWEZI. FROM LOGISTICS STANDPOINT REQUEST COULD BE HANDLED, BUT IT DOES RAISE POLICY QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. HERE AT LEAST, WE DO NOT HAVE AS CLEAR A VIEW OF FRENCH INTENTIONS AS THOSE OF BELGIANS, ALTHOUGH I SUSPECT FRENCH MAY BE IN FOR LONGER STAY AND IN CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK THAT MAY SHIFT AWAY FROM HUMANITARIAN RESCUE OPERATION TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SHABA DEFENSE. OUR SUPPORTING FRENCH COULD THEREFORE BE THE BEGINNING OF INVOLVEMENT THAT EXCEEDS CURRENT
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POLICY GUIDELINES.

3. ALTERNATIVE FOR FRENCH IS TO MAKE USE OF FAZ C-130S, WHICH ARE ALL IN HEAVY USE, OR SUPPLY THEIR OWN PLANES FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE COULD AGREE TO THIS REQUEST ONLY ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS, MAKING POINT THAT IT FALLS WITHIN CATEGORY OF "CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTS" PER PARA 3, REF. (A), AND MAKING USE OF C-141S NOW TRANSPORTING FRENCH

EQUIPMENT INTO LUBUMBASHI. BUT IF IN FACT IT LOOKS AS IF FRENCH ARE
GOING TO STAY LONGER, WE SHOULD BE WARY OF THIS TYPE OF UNDERTAKING.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. ASAP.
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Message Attributes

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